

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 091455Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1048

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LOCAL ELECTIONS

1. A SMALL PORTION OF THE ITALIAN POPULATION -- LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ELECTORATE -- WILL GO TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 21 AND 28. THE MORE IMPORTANT ELECTIONS WILL OCCUR ON NOVEMBER 28 WHEN REEADENTS OF 112 TOWNS (THE LARGEST BEING VELLETRI IN THE REGION OF LAZIO WITH 27,500VOTERS) WILL ELECT NEW LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS. A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 279,000 ITALIANS WILL VOTE IN THESE ELECTIONS.

2. THE NOVEMBER 21 ELECTIONS WILL SEE APPROXIMATELY 608,000 VOTERS INVOLVED IN CHOSSING WARD COUNCILS IN THE CITIES OF FLORENCE, NOVARA, TREV, PERUGIA, AND AREZZO. THE WARD COUNCILS GROW OUT OF A LAW ADOPTED LAST APRIL DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE AVERAGE CITIZEN WITH A MORE DIRECT VOICE IN THE GOVERNING OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS. WARD COUNCILS, WHILE NOT HAVING DIRECT LEGISLATIVE RIGHTS, HAVE CONSULTATIVE POWERS INVOLVING VIRTUALLY ALL PHASES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT. IN AND OF THEMSELVES, THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

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INVOLVE TOO SMALL A PORTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORATE TO

ASSUME A MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SCENE. NEVERTHELESS, AS THE FIRST ELECTORAL CONSULTATIONS SINCE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS OF LAST JUNE, SOME OBSERVERS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE LOOKING FOR TRENDS, AND THE RESULTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EITHER BE DISCOUNTED OR BE EMPHASIZED BY THE INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PARTIES DEPENDING ON HOW THEIR SLATES ARE PERCEIVED TO HAVE DONE. VOLPE

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